

# BE AN INFORMED DONOR

There are many charities that have legitimate-sounding names or names very close to that of a well-known charity. Often, they are nothing more than an organization of scam artists. They call with promises to help those in need, but simply pocket the money instead.

Look for the warning signs that may indicate a scam:

- You have to make your decision "to help" immediately.
- The charity's name sounds legitimate, but you still don't recognize it.
- The charity can't, or won't, send you a brochure or a donor form, or doesn't have a Web site that you can visit.
- The solicitor insists you can only donate by giving him or her money.
- During a telemarketing call, you're asked to give confidential information such as bank account or credit card numbers.



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**Consumer Protection Line**  
**800-727-6432**

Web site: [www.ago.ne.gov](http://www.ago.ne.gov)



This brochure was paid for with funds obtained through court settlements and designated for consumer education and public awareness.

A close-up photograph of a hand with red-painted fingernails holding a gold-colored pen and writing on a check. The check has the number "126" and a dollar sign visible. The background is dark and out of focus.

# Charity Fraud

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
ATTORNEY GENERAL JON BRUNING



## TIPS FOR CHARITABLE GIVING

Do your research before making a donation. Below is a checklist of important questions to ask before giving to a charity.

- ✓ What is the **exact name and address** of the charity?
- ✓ What **percentage of the donation will go to the charity** itself vs. administrative costs?
- ✓ Will the charity mail you a **current financial statement**?
- ✓ Is the **solicitor a volunteer or a paid solicitor**?

# FRAUDULENT CHARITIES PREY ON YOUR GENEROSITY

**Follow these suggestions for wise giving:**

- ✓ Request printed information that explains the **charity's purpose and goals**.
- ✓ Be aware of "look-alike" charities.
- ✓ **Do not give credit card or checking account numbers over the phone**, unless you initiated the call.

If the solicitor cannot answer your questions about the charity; uses high pressure tactics; or insists on sending someone to pick up your donation; **DO NOT DONATE.**

## Your Giving History

This is an easy way to keep track of your charitable donations for the year, and it's great for tax purposes.

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## TO REPORT SUSPECTED CHARITY FRAUD

**Call the Consumer Protection Line 800-727-6432**